

Fisheries Information Network (FIN)



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Fisheries Information Network

- Consists of two major components:
ComFIN and RecFIN(SE)
- Each program has mission, goals, and objectives and address specifics issues related to area of emphasis

Problems Addressed by FIN

- Incompatibility or inconsistency among state and federal databases
- Duplication and conflicts among these surveys
- Need for improvements in catch and effort and catch statistics
- Need to improve length frequencies and ageing data
- Lack of sufficient data for:
 - Discards
 - Recreational fishing tournament
 - Social and economic data
- Limited access to databases
- Absence of common forum to plan, coordinate, and evaluate data collection and management activities

FIN Mission

- Cooperatively collect, manage, and disseminate marine commercial, anadromous and recreational fishery data and information for the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Region and to support the development of a national program

Regional Programs

- FIN, ACCSP, PacFIN, Pacific RecFIN designed to be regional components of FIS
- Do not “reinvent the wheel”
- Utilize experience of program to implement FIS

Modules under FIN

- Catch/effort
- Biological sampling
- Bycatch
- Social/economic
- Registration tracking
- Modules have commercial and recreational component

Modules of FIN

- Modular design components
 - Program level data standards development - design and procedures
 - Program level data management structure development
 - Legislative/regulatory action
 - Individual partner data management development
 - Individual partner program implementation
 - Evaluation of components

Modules of FIN

- FIN worked closely with ACCSP to ensure compatibility and comparability (where possible)
- Assist in implementation of the national FIS program

Recent Activities

- Coordination and administration of FIN activities
 - Provides for the coordination, planning, and administration of FIN activities throughout the year
- Collecting, managing and disseminating marine recreational fisheries data
 - Provides for conduct of MRFSS survey in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida for shore, for-hire, and private modes and for-hire field intercepts in Texas
 - Also provides for conduct of weekly telephone calls of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida charter and head boat captains to obtain estimates of charter and head boat fishing effort

Recent Activities

- Head boat port sampling in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida
 - Provides for sampling of catches, collection of catch reports from head boat personnel, and gathering effort data on head boats along the coasts of Texas, Louisiana, and Florida
 - Pilot survey in Alabama to test at-sea sampling methods
- Gulf menhaden port sampling
 - Provides for sampling of gulf menhaden catches from menhaden purse-seine vessels that operate at in Louisiana

Recent Activities

- Development and implementation of FIN data management system
 - Provides for routine loading of Louisiana, Mississippi (oyster only), Alabama, and Florida commercial catch effort data, gulf biological data, gulf recreational data; And maintenance of DMS
- Trip ticket program development and operation
 - Provides for implementation and operation of commercial trip ticket systems for Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida
 - Provides operation of electronic trip ticket reporting in these states

Recent Activities

■ Biological sampling

- Provide for collection of biological data from the recreational and commercial catches of red snapper, king mackerel, gulf and southern flounder, and greater amberjack as well as other species (time permitting)